

Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency in Chicago, by Judge Tuthill, Probation Officers, Superintendent Hart and Settlement Investigator.

The Commons

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Our Michigan University Fellowship—Second Investigation.

We devote this number of THE COMMONS, with much satisfaction, to the results of an inquiry into the Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency in Chicago. The subject was assigned to the last incumbent of the Michigan University Social Settlement Fellowship at Chicago Commons. Although coming to the study of this serious and complex problem of real life from only the second year of her undergraduate course, without the experience of mature years or of wide observation, Miss Clarke devoted her five months residence so purposefully and industriously as to win the confidence and co-operation of all with whom she came in contact in making her investigation. Her report, which has been favorably received by the University faculty, and is partially presented herewith, speaks for itself of the clearness and comprehensiveness of her view of the situation, and the variety and thoroughness of her practical experience in the Juvenile Court, on the probation officer's round of duty, and among the public and private child-saving agencies of the city. While offering less scope for originality in research than the "Social Function of the Saloon," to which Mr. Royal L. Melendy devoted his already widely noted fellowship investigation, Miss Clarke's report is creditable to her improvement of her opportunity. The papers by which the expert officials of the court and the Children's Home and Aid Society so generously supplement this partial presentation of her report are to be taken as a token of the interested co-operation with the settlement investigation in which she enlisted them. The marked increase of interest in the settlement fellowship which the warden of Chicago Commons found among the University faculty and students on the occasion of his recent annual presentation of its advantages at Ann Arbor, is manifestly due to the capital created for this academic enterprise by the success of the investigations, and the influence of the incumbents of the fellowship upon their return to

their University residence. We are happy to report the prompt assurance of the continuance of the fellowship for another year, and the worthy succession in its incumbency of Mr. W. L. Heap, of the Law School, and possibly, also, Mr. C. L. Catherman, of the academic department.

Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency. Report of Inquiry at Chicago.

BY MISS EDITH I. CLARKE, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

SYNOPSIS.

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- IV. The Juvenile Court, its treatment of the dependent and delinquent child described; its probation officers; the results of its work to date.
- V. Agencies for the care of children, societies and institutions.
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JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND DEPENDENCY BEFORE
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JUVENILE
COURT IN CHICAGO.

The condition of delinquent children in Chicago could hardly have been much worse than it was before the Juvenile Court Law went into operation. Little children, nine and ten years old, were tried and convicted just like a man of forty. If they were sentenced they were sent to the Bridewell or to Pontiac prisons, where the worst criminals are kept. They were picked up on the streets by the Policeman for some supposed offense and put into the Police Station for the night, little or no care being taken as to who was in the same cell with them. Of course the little fellows were defiant and only too ready to learn all the evil the older men around them chose to teach them. Mr. Crawford, formerly warden of the House of Correction for seven years, told us that a boy whom he knew in that place wrote to him that he had been in prison ever since he was a little boy, and that he was now twenty-three. He had been arrested for some petty offense when he was nine years old, and though he was not an unusually bad child, he was sent to the Bridewell. There his only associates were confirmed criminals and thieves. He soon learned his first lessons in porch-climbing and became a professional burglar.

This is only a mild case of the civil influence of the men upon the boys. The small boys were often put in the same cell with the worst knaves.

At that time there were no religious services there and no one did anything to help the boy morally or spiritually. He was allowed to sink as low as he would and not a hand was stretched out to save. This would have been bad enough if the boy were sentenced for life; but not so, he was taken out after he had full opportunity to have all the goodness in him killed, and was called free, was told to live a good life, and was expected to be a model citizen. But he had learned his lesson too well and nine times out of ten he landed in prison again before long.

Another thing that was deplorable about the old system was that none of the boys had books to read or instruction in school branches. Their minds were allowed to rust and grow feeble unless they trained them by concocting mischief.

Such was the condition of the delinquents. The dependents in many cases were not much better off. In the Bridewell were children under seven years old with their wicked mothers, growing up amid the jail surroundings, no kindergarten, no one to see that they were cared for properly. Not only were dependent children allowed to stay in the Bridewell, but they were also sent to the Poor-house. Any one who has ever visited the Poor-house at Dunning knows that it is not a fit place to keep little children, where sickness, feebleness and death form their environment. Instead of keeping the children, while there, in a separate room, they put them in the surgical ward with the sick, old people. In that unhappy, unhealthy place, little boys and girls were allowed, nay rather forced, to stay just because they were unfortunate enough to be orphans or to have poor, sick parents.

There was no provision whatever made for dependent children under two years of age. The cases of children older than that were tried in the County Court.

AGENCIES COMBINED TO BRING THE CONDITION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

Among those who self-sacrificingly labored to inaugurate the better era now begun, the late Mrs. Alzina P. Stevens (a woman of unflinching fidelity to the working class and of great influence in labor organizations) had so much to do with bettering the conditions of child-life in Chicago, and her recent death was so great a loss that it seems fit to give here a brief account of her remarkable life.

She was born in Parsonville, Maine, May 27, 1849. At the age of twelve years she entered upon work in a factory; and when she was eighteen years old she learned the printer's trade in Chicago, where in 1877 she organized the Working Women's Union No. 1, and was its first President. Afterwards she moved to Toledo, where she was engaged in editorial work on a Toledo daily. There she helped to organize a branch of Knights of Labor, called the Joan of Arc Assembly of the Knights of Labor. In 1892 she returned to Chicago, and at the World's Fair Labor Congress she was on the Women's Auxiliary Committee.

She was appointed Assistant Factory Inspector in 1893, by Gov. Altgeld, and partly through her efforts the law of 1897 extending the child labor provisions was enacted.

She did much toward the establishment of the Juvenile Court Law in 1899, and also of the Parental School Law. The Juvenile Court appointed her its first Probation Officer and

her fidelity to that work was admirable. When she died she had about one hundred and fifty boys under her supervision from that Court. Her faithful work is deeply missed. She was a resident of Hull House for a few years before her death.

Very different associations had a hand in the new movement for the children. The Labor Unions stirred up a feeling against child-labor and called the attention of the public to the conditions of children in factories and other business places. The State Conference of Charities, of 1898, devoted its entire time to the subject of juvenile delinquency and dependency. The State Federation of Women's Clubs and many of the local Women's Clubs discussed it. The Chicago Bar Association adopted a unanimous resolution in favor of suitable legislation and appointed a committee to draft a bill.

RESULTS OF THE AGITATION.

These efforts were successful in bringing into operation within the last three or four years four laws, the Child Labor, Compulsory Education, Juvenile Court and Parental School Laws.

A Parental School is to be built on a forty-acre tract, situated between Winnemac Ave., Foster Street, Robey and Leavitt Streets. It is expected that this new school will relieve the great rush at the John Worthy School. In honor of Mrs. A. P. Stevens, and in memory of her services to the children of Chicago, the new school will bear her name.

THE JUVENILE COURT.

The Juvenile Court of Chicago was established July, 1899.

Any reputable resident of Cook County who knows of a child who appears to be neglected or dependent may file with the Clerk of the Court a petition, in writing, setting forth the facts, verified by affidavit. Upon the filing of the petition, a summons is sent to the person having control of the child, or with whom the child may be, requiring the person to appear in Court at the next session for dependent children, and stating the time of the session.

Between the filing of the petition and the Monday morning session, the children are taken, sometimes in the Patrol Wagon, sometimes on the cars, to what is called the "Detention Hospital."

Some of the cases are so clearly dependent that it does not take long to dispose of them; as, for instance, when a child is apparently without parents or friends. Often a widowed

mother proves very quickly that she is utterly unable to care for one or more of her children. These are not the cases that are hard to decide. But when some of the neighbors of a woman swear that she drinks and does not give the proper attention to her children, and she swears just as firmly that it is not true, and when other neighbors agree with her, it is often hard to tell which side is telling the truth. In such a case, the judge lets the woman keep the children, but makes the whole family subject to the friendly visitation and supervision of a probation officer, or he may continue the case indefinitely.

In no small number of cases the judge is convinced that the parent, or parents, are simply trying to get rid of the responsibility of caring for their family. If he thinks best, he puts them in charge of a probation officer, but he does not take the children from the parents.

Whenever he is reasonably sure that the little ones are neglected at home, that it would be hurting them to leave them with the parents any longer, and that there is no suitable relative or friend to take them, they are declared dependent and are given into the hands of one of the societies which care for children.

These societies either have the children adopted into family homes or sent to suitable institutions.

The delinquents, with their parents or guardians, are brought before the Court in the same way as the dependents. Notice is served on the parents, however, more often by school teachers and policemen, than is the case with the dependents. According to the law cited above, no delinquent child under twelve years of age is allowed to be kept in a Police Station. Consequently, such boys are taken to the Detention Home in a patrol wagon. They are brought from there to Court in a covered wagon, provided for the purpose, and, in the same wagon, are conveyed to the John Worthy School, if the Court decides to commit them to that place.

The delinquent girls are taken sometimes to the Harrison Street Annex and sometimes to the Detention Hospital.

In the Court room the boys, from ten to twenty of them, sit by themselves at Judge Tuthill's left, in the same chairs as are occupied by the dependents Monday morning. The proceedings are very informal, in order that the boys may not be frightened so much that they will not tell what they know. One case is called at a time. The boy, or boys, involved

in it goes to the Judge's desk and the witnesses stand behind him. When the witnesses are sworn, Judge Tuthill asks the questions necessary in order to make the right disposition of the case. He talks with the boy in a kind, fatherly manner, warns him against the wrong and encourages him to make a start in the right direction. Many different charges, but mostly larceny, are brought against the boys.

If it is the first offense, he is allowed to go home, but it put under the supervision of a probation officer. But if the Judge decides that a second trial would do the boy no good, or if it is the second time he has been arrested, he usually sends him to John Worthy School, which is the only place Chicago has for her delinquent boys.

The girls sit in the back of the Court room and are attended after the boys. They are, as a rule, older than the boys who are tried and much fewer in number. In fact, on many days there are no girls to be tried. They are charged with immorality more often than with larceny.

The following figures are taken from an official report of the work of the Juvenile Court during the past year, from July 1, 1899, to June 30, 1900:

Number of sessions of court.....	190
Number of cases docketed.....	2,295
Total number of hearings.....	3,181
Total number of juvenile districts in the county	11

DISPOSITION OF DELINQUENT CASES.

Hearing and released on parol to probation officers	1,005
Number of boys paroled to probation officers returned to court.....	203
Committed to John Worthy School.....	541
Released from John Worthy School.....	256
Number boys released from John Worthy School and remanded	33
Released from John Worthy School, in care of probation officers, not returned to court....	162
Released from John Worthy School, in care of parents, not returned to court.....	61
Committed to State Reformatory at Pontiac...	18
Released from State Reformatory at Pontiac...	16
Held to grand jury.....	57
Committed to State Home for Female Juvenile Offenders, at Geneva	48
Committed to House of Good Shepherd.....	28

DISPOSITION OF DELINQUENT CASES.

From this it will be seen that the Court has definitely fixed the status of nearly 2,300 human beings at the most critical points of their lives. Hundreds have been saved from lives of shame and crime. Hundreds have been taken from homeless lives or from unfit homes and placed in good institutions or the care of societies to find them suitable homes.

The efficacy of the method of probation is proved by the fact that only slightly more than 18 per cent of all boys paroled have been brought back to Court, and that, as the probation system is perfected, the percentage is decreasing.

The most important officers of the Juvenile Court are the active general probation officers. While there are 94 commissioned, only six devote their whole time to the work. They are either volunteers or, if paid, are paid from private sources, as the law provides for the support of the head probation officer only. In this respect, the Court is at a disadvantage. The year's work shows that at least twenty efficient, paid, general probation officers for specific districts could be used to advantage, and may be said to be absolutely necessary.

The year's experience shows the need of giving summary power to the Juvenile Court to compel parents and other near relatives to support their children. It also shows the great need of an adequate building for the detention of both dependent and delinquent children. At present, the dependents are kept usually a week awaiting disposition of the Detention Hospital, where the insane are awaiting trial. The accommodations in this place are limited to fourteen beds. Sometimes there are twenty or more children in the institution. The delinquents are detained in a cottage under the supervision of a painstaking, efficient superintendent. It is furnished by private means, but the city and county share the expense of the board of the children.

The most prominent offenses committed by the children are truancy, "junking," and child-begging, which are at the root of many evils. All of these are being stopped gradually by the Court.

THE CITY REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Of the institutions caring for children (delinquent) the most important is John Worthy School. The building is in the same yard with the Bridewell Prison, but the boys do not associate with the prison inmates.

There are on the average about two hundred boys in the school all the time. They have their studies from 9 to 12 a. m. and 1 to 3:30 p. m. The classes are graded from the first to the eighth. Singing has lately been introduced, and the songs that are enjoyed most are the common street songs. When class hours are over, the boys spend most of their time in playing. They are not required to do much work.

To be sure, there is a chance for them to learn brush-making, but almost all of their spare time is spent in the play room, romping. The play room is very large, and has almost no furniture in it. The day we visited, there were 183 boys romping and playing roughly in this room. There were some guards scattered among the little fellows, but how could seven or eight men watch the words and actions of 183 little street gamins? They tried to pick our pockets, and succeeded in getting my handkerchief. Surely, some better way ought to be provided for taking care of the delinquent boys. They spend several months or years in a place like that, and a few may be benefited, but it seems almost inevitable that the worst ones will teach the better ones all sorts of wicked plans and ideas. They never come into close relationship there with any noble, motherly woman who could win their confidence and help them to a higher, truer life.

In the evening those who wish to may read a little while. The library is not very extensive, but there are some very good books in it. Bedtime comes at eight o'clock, and the boys retire to their single beds, which are placed side by side in the dormitory, with a little space between. Their dining-room is very much like the one in the prison next door, and the fare is rigidly plain and simple, better, I believe, than many of the boys get at home.

On Sunday both Catholic and Protestant services are held and the boys generally attend both.

The Illinois Industrial School for Girls is situated in a charming place in Evanston, Illinois, near the lake. It is large, finely equipped and well suited in every particular to the purposes for which it is used. It is made as home-like as such a large home could be. The number of girls varies from 125 to 200, and when they are taken in they must be between three years old and fourteen and must be declared dependent by some judge or jury.

A week's program for a child is about the same as it would be in any well-regulated home. She attends school and assists with the work of the Home. The older girls do the heavier work. No domestic help is employed. The work is simplified as much as possible by the latest and improved methods of doing things. Homes are found for the girls in good families and they are never allowed to work in shops or factories. They are carefully looked after until they are eighteen years old.

Three school teachers are employed and the grades correspond to those of the public schools. They aim always to employ women of culture and refinement for every department. The dormitories are models of neatness and the older girls have small rooms of their own which they take great pride in keeping clean and pretty.

The court also commits some boys of Catholic parentage to St. Mary's Training School at Feehanville and others of Protestant parentage to the Illinois Manual Training and Farm School at Glenwood.

CAUSES OF DEPENDENCY AND DELINQUENCY OF CHILDREN.

The relationship of dependency to delinquency is similar to that of the bud to the flower. Something may blight the bud and the flower may never come. The dependent child may never turn into the delinquent, but nine times out of ten the delinquency of a child is an outgrowth of its dependency.

Many children are declared wards of the State on account of the sickness or insanity of the breadwinner of the family. Sometimes shiftlessness is at the root of this misfortune, but there are men who have been industrious and saving and yet who have seen hunger and deprivation staring them in the face. Until they can once more get on their feet, they can do nothing but give their children over to the protection of the State.

If the parents are willing to give their children proper maintenance, the Court seldom takes the little ones away from them, however bad the father and mother may be. But if the parents are bringing up the children to immorality or dishonesty, the children are, by definition, dependent, whether the Court declares them so or not. In some instances, the parents show their utter lack of love for their offspring by deserting them. It is quite an ordinary occurrence to have small children and sometimes older ones brought into Court and made wards of the State because no one knows where their fathers and mothers are.

Weakness of the marriage-tie is at the bottom of a great many cases of dependency. As long as it is an easy thing for men to marry, become fathers and then get divorced only to leave their families and do the same thing over again, as long as the sacredness of the family relations is made light of, just so long will there be hundreds of little children, in our large cities, homeless and helpless, who will grow up with no happy remembrance of a home and no desire to have the right kind of

a home when they become fathers and mothers. With just as great vigor as we use to prevent smallpox, philanthropic efforts ought to be directed toward the prevention of dependency caused by this evil.

The root of the difficulty is in our industrial organization. In the central portions of our large cities, it is almost impossible for parents to have pleasant homes and to bring up their children well. It is necessary for them to live in these places because machinery has diminished the demand for country laborers. They work in the large manufactories; and because of the long hours and lack of money to pay car fare they must live near their place of business. Rent in that part of the city is very high and consequently they must live in a crowded way and without many of the modern conveniences. Their instincts of sociability lead many people to seek work in large cities and there are other motives that lead them there. Where there are six or seven families in one house and no place for the children to play except in the streets and alleys, when the families are poor and both father and mother are away all day working, the conditions are not conducive to a happy and prosperous home.

Bad housing has much to do with the deterioration of city population. There is no law as to the number of people who may occupy a given space. Consequently sometimes as many as thirteen people are crowded into one small room to sleep at night. In these houses, there is seldom, if ever, a bath-room. The children often do not get a bath during a whole winter.

The first floors are generally damp, and I know of one case at least where the family live in a cellar which, after a thaw, became so filled with water that they had to bail it out in pails; not a very good place in which to bring up children.

There are numerous rooms into which a ray of sunlight never strays.

The poorer class of laborers are compelled by their low wages to live in such houses. No wonder they get discouraged in the awful struggle for health and decency. No wonder many of them give up the struggle hopelessly and allow themselves to be swept on and on in the downward current of human woe. Are we to expect a little boy or a little girl to grow up with a true, noble character, when all he has a chance of seeing are drunkenness, fights, crime, dirt and unlovely sights?

Probably truancy has as much as anything else to do with landing boys in John Worth

School. Very few of the boys brought into Court had a good school record as to attendance. Eighteen per cent of 180 truants examined in Massachusetts had committed petty crimes. Truancy in 98 per cent of these cases led to vagrancy. Fourteen per cent of the inmates of the reformatories of the North Atlantic States can neither read nor write.

In spite of the Compulsory Education Law in Illinois, out of 1,500,000 children of school age only 1,000,000 of them attend school. A boy who runs away from school invariably falls into bad company and gets into some trouble. He loses interest in his studies and seldom amounts to anything unless something happens to change his course. Often the causes of truancy are inefficient teachers, bad systems of instruction or some physical defect in the child. The number of delinquent children will diminish in the same ratio as the number of truant cases is lessened.

IDEAL TREATMENT OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AND DEPENDENCY.

The greatest results in any reformatory work are of a preventive character. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the encouragement and strengthening of the home life of a dependent or delinquent child, or upon helping the children when they are very young before they are confirmed in dishonesty and sin. While there will always be cases where it will be absolutely necessary to remove children from the care and influence of unworthy people, still it is true that the greatest good can be accomplished through the steady education of the poorer classes about their responsibility to childhood. For this reason, the probation system in Chicago, which I have described, seems to me to be a step in the right direction. If the officers had more leisure they could do a wondrous work in this line.

How the Juvenile-Court Law is Working.

BY RICHARD S. TUTHILL, JUDGE OF THE COURT.

Illinois has earned the right to be classed in the front ranks of the advanced states of the Union in her provisions for general education, her generous treatment of the blind, the deaf and the insane, and the reform methods that have been introduced from time to time in her penal institutions.

While much progress has been made by Illinois within the past decade in the matter of properly caring for youthful criminals, nevertheless a most deplorable condition of affairs

with respect to the treatment of children has existed in the state up to the present time." The State heretofore failed to recognize the fact that her highest duty to her citizens was not performed by standing over the body of the small delinquent in the form of avenging justice. It took arduous labor, in season and out of season, to persuade the representatives of the people that the State is, after all, the great first parent, and that when the natural parent was unable to care for and properly rear the child it was the duty of the State to place herself in loco parentis, and assume the responsibilities the natural parent was unable to fulfill. Finally the State awoke to the fact that, because of the inadequacy of her laws, and failure to provide and care for the children who lacked wise parental care, she was breeding an army of criminals which, in a short time, would not only be a menace to the commonwealth, but would burden the taxpayers of the State with intolerable expense in providing protection against the criminal army. It was also realized that all of this trouble and burden would be unnecessary if the ounce of prevention were applied in the days of childhood.

When the law known as the Juvenile Court Law became the law of Illinois, going into effect July 1, 1899, it seemed, on first thought, that it would be almost impossible to enforce it because of the fact that in the law itself adequate means to carry it into effect are not provided. For instance, the law, in Section 11, provides "that no court or magistrate shall commit a child under the age of twelve years to a jail or police station." Here was an immediate difficulty, inasmuch as neither the City nor the County had a place of detention such as the law contemplated. The Board of Directors of the Illinois Industrial Association, through its superintendent, Rev. A. C. Dodds, gave the use of their cottage at 233 Honore street for the detention of delinquent children pending a hearing of their cases, and this difficulty was in a measure overcome for the time being. It will be necessary in the near future, however, if the real good contemplated by the law is effected, to provide not only a suitable place of detention for the child before its case is heard, but also to study deeply into the question and provide some place, modern in every feature and reformatory in its nature, but yet a home, where the delinquent child may be kept in proper environments while under the direct care of the court.

The law makes provision for the appointment by the court of probation officers, whose

duty it shall be to "make such investigations as may be required by the court; to be present in court in order to represent the interest of the child when the case is heard; to furnish to the court such information and assistance as the judge may require, and to take such charge of any child before and after trial as may be directed by the court."

The probation system is by far the most important feature of the Juvenile Court Law. As a rule, the cause of committing a criminal act lies not wholly with the child, but in most cases the blame attaches to lack of proper training—to carelessness on the part of the parents. The percentage of delinquent children who are in any way abnormal in their moral nature is not much, if any, larger among children of the slums than among the children of well-to-do and honest parents. The criminal acts committed are not due particularly to hereditary taint so much as to bad environments and improper training. The delinquent boys and girls are not, by nature, worse than your child, or mine. For the most part they are wide-awake, energetic youths, who need only to have their energies directed into the right channels by a guiding hand. Proper care will make them a blessing to themselves as well as to their parents and to the State. Without this help they will rapidly degenerate into criminals and fill our State with an evil influence which in time the authorities will be unable to cope with. Children are only miniature editions of men and women. They are peculiarly creatures of habit. Bad habits, like poisonous weeds, grow very rapidly and in any soil. During the character forming period of a child's life bad habits must be rooted out and a new and wholesome growth of good habits substituted. If this is accomplished a peaceable, law-abiding citizen is sure to be the result of the cultivation. In the case of a delinquent child such a transformation must, of necessity, be very slow and is almost sure to be discouraging to any person not possessed of unlimited patience and earnest hopefulness. Such a person is the ideal probation officer. The probation officer, while his visits are made primarily in the interest of a particular child, is helpful to every member of the family as well as to the child under his care. One family thus improved must, of necessity, have a direct effect for good upon its neighbors, and thus the entire community is benefited.

While the Juvenile Court Law gives to the court power to appoint probation officers, no provision is made for the payment of a com-

pensation for their services. The experience of sixteen months, during which time the law has been in practical operation in Cook County, has proved that the services of a probation officer, to be valuable, must be persistent, and that it is impossible to secure persistent service without the payment of a reasonable compensation for the services rendered. As the law made no provision for such payment, help in this respect must come entirely from outside sources. If the settlements, clubs, churches and charitable men and women of the city will pay the salaries of competent probation officers who will thus be enabled to devote their entire time to the work of the Juvenile Court, and assist the regular district officers, one more great difficulty standing in the way of the proper operation of the law will be overcome. Honorable Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of the city, at the request of those interested in the workings of the court, detailed a number of fatherly men from the police force of the city, who, in citizens' clothes, without baton or arms or any other outward sign of authority, act as probation officers. These officers have been of invaluable assistance in the work.

As matters now stand, the number of probation officers serving the Juvenile Court is totally inadequate for carrying on the work, and unless continued and multiplied service of the kind that is now being rendered can be secured, the efficiency of the law will be impaired, if not done away with.

I have no hesitancy in declaring that I believe the work of the Juvenile Court is of more importance than any other business transacted by the court, and that it is effecting far more good for the city in suppressing crime than the Criminal Court could possibly effect by punishment.

Juvenile Court Probation System

BY T. D. HURLEY, CHIEF PROBATIONER OFFICER.

Illinois is to be congratulated on the Juvenile Court law which was passed by the Illinois Legislature in April, 1899, and in force July 1, 1899, entitled, "An Act to Regulate the Treatment and Control of Neglected, Dependent and Delinquent Children." Before the passage of this law the delinquent children were first arrested, taken to the police station, kept in association with hardened criminals until tried, then charged with a crime, and, if found guilty thereof, were convicted and thereafter branded and hunted as criminals. Under the Juvenile

Court plan of procedure the child is treated as a child, impressed by the Court with the idea that while he may have been guilty of a technical offense for which he might be punished, yet he will be given a chance, and he is thereupon made a ward of the Court, allowed to return to his home, under the friendly care of a probation officer, who sees him from time to time, assists him, advises in respect to his home and surroundings, and thus helps him. The Court is advised by reports from the probation officer of the boy's attendance at school, or his conduct in employment, if at work.

Should the child again be brought into court, the Court at once sees that he has broken his parole, and acts accordingly, if the circumstances warrant. At no time is the child looked upon as a criminal. The idea of crime never enters into the case. The Court rather inquires into the condition of the child and deals with it accordingly, applying the necessary correctional means so as to change the life of the child. It is not necessary, nor was it ever necessary, to find the child guilty of crime so as to be able to detain him or send him to school. No child has liberty in the sense that we understand the term. A child's wants must be supplied; the school selected, the rules of life provided, and the mode of conduct mapped out for him. All these things are supplied, not by the child, but by the parent. When the parental care is lacking, then it is the duty of the State which stands in loco parentis to the child to take the place of the parent. When the natural parent violates his trust in any way, then the State steps in and supplies the place of the natural parent. So that the State, is not dealing harshly with the child when it applies the same rules and regulations to it that the natural parent usually does. If the State can detain the boy without accusing him or trying him for a crime, it certainly is a senseless, and, I think, a vicious and demoralizing practice to make a criminal of him before starting to reform him. The efficiency of the Juvenile Court is shown in the fact that more than 85 per cent of all the children brought before the Court are benefited, and may be said to be practically saved; whereas 95 per cent of all the boys appearing before the justices and tried in the old way as criminals were lost. The process before the passage of the Juvenile Court law being, first the police station, next the house of correction, then the jail, Pontiac, the penitentiary, and sad to say, sometimes the gallows. As it is now the Court, the Circuit Court, the strong

and wise representative of the people, takes the boy in charge, as did the old King's Bench in England, makes him a ward of the Court, advises with him from time to time, cautions him about the bad company he is keeping, tries at all times to keep him in his home, near his parents, and warns him that unless he acts as a good and faithful child will act, he will be taken in charge and forced to do his duty properly. Children soon learn that they must obey the master mind. One term in the John Worthy School has been sufficient in most cases to bring the boy to a realization of the fact that he cannot do as he pleases; and, furthermore, that it is not hard for him to do the right thing. It would be a waste of time and energy to send a child from the Court to its home, there to remain under the supervision of the Court, unless the Court had some person to act for it, and visit the child and his parents from time to time, so as to ascertain and become acquainted with his mode of life. The person who does this work is designated and known as a probation officer, who is appointed by the judge under the Juvenile Court law to perform this work. It will be seen at once that a great many probation officers, or assistants to probation officers, must be appointed, when it is known that at the present time there are over 1,500 children on probation, and the number will increase from week to week. The Boston authorities estimate that a probation officer should not have more than 40 children paroled to him or her at any one time; and I am inclined to believe that no one person in Chicago should have charge of more than 40 to 50 active cases; that is, cases requiring weekly visitations.

To utilize the forces in the Juvenile Court, and at the same time systematize work, the Court has been divided into 12 districts, and each district assigned to what is known as a general probation officer, who devotes his or her entire time to the work. All children coming before the Court, if paroled, are assigned to the district officer in the district where the child resides. The number of children in some districts exceed over 200, and in all districts will reach that number in a short time. The district probation officer works subject to the direction of the chief probation officer, and, of course, will not be expected to do all of the visitation. It is contemplated and, in fact, a plan has been in partial operation for some time, interesting all the churches, social settlements, societies and individuals in

each district desiring to co-operate with the Juvenile Court. An individual may take two or three cases in a district and do all of the visiting, report to the district officer, who, in turn, will report to the chief probation officer. In this way it is hoped that every child in Cook County come before the Juvenile Court and paroled will be carefully and intelligently visited, and systematic reports may be made from time to time. It will be seen that real and effective work will be done by the above agencies, and in a great measure the district officer and the Court officials will simply report the work performed from time to time of the various agencies interesting themselves in the work. It is hoped that before long there will be established in each district a business office for the district officer, separate and apart from any church, settlement, society or other institutions.

A Probation Officer's Use for the Settlement.

BY MARTHA P. FALCONER, PROBATION OFFICER.

When a boy is brought to the Juvenile Court for trial, if it is a first offense he is usually allowed to return to his home, but committed to the care of a probation officer, who is expected to visit the boy from time to time and make reports for the Court. Before dismissing the boy the Court will say to the boy and his mother if she is present: "This officer of the Court will come to see you, I shall learn through her how you are getting along in school or work; you must obey her; she will try in every way to help you." This gives the probation officer an introduction into that family which no friendly visitor or Settlement worker has; it is not only our privilege but our duty to visit that family.

The first thing is to establish friendly relations with the mother, to see that all the children of school age are in school, the younger ones in kindergarten. I have found it a great help to get the family into friendly relations with a Settlement when there is one near enough. Get the tired mother, whose life has probably been one of drudgery, into the club for women; I may call for her the first time, take her to the club; after the first she is ready to go alone.

If there are older sisters I try to get them into cooking or sewing classes.

For boys the club is a valuable help as well as a source of pleasure; he must have some recreation, I feel safe about a boy who is at-

tending regularly his club at the Settlement, knowing he will come under good influence there. One of my boys who had been in the Juvenile Court twice, in the John Worthy School once, has been attending a club at the Commons all winter. I felt very doubtful about this boy after visiting his home; eight children, a tired mother, the father felt he had done his duty if he provided food and a place to sleep; if his boy wanted to break into cars and steal he could go back to the John Worthy School. I felt there was nothing in that home to hold a bright, active boy. I insisted upon his going to a club. I have not had any trouble with him, and I think it is the influence of the club on the boy. Already he is full of plans for going to the country next summer with the Boys' Club. I feel I did the best possible thing for that boy in getting him started in the club. The Settlement usually has an organized class or club to meet the need of every member of a family where I visit. It is sometimes a question of time and patience to get started, I know it will help the family and strengthen my work with the boy.

In one part of my district, between the lake and the river, Chicago avenue to Kinzie street, there is no Settlement or reading room.

I have nearly forty boys in that territory, most of them live in dark basements or rear rooms in the second or third story. Of what use is it to try to say to these boys "Do not run the streets at night, or Sunday, stay at home," when I know what those homes are. I know it would be a great help toward saving those boys from the John Worthy School if there was a Settlement or reading room where the boys might go.

I am hoping to be able to rent a store room in that neighborhood, for a boys' club; open several evenings during the week and Sunday. Some help has been promised, but not enough. The expense would not be much to begin in a simple way; we would have to have money for room rent, fuel and light. I should be glad to hear from anyone interested in boys and willing to help along this line.

Child-Saving Work in Chicago.

BY HASTINGS H. HART, SUPERINTENDENT
CHILDREN'S HOME AND AID
SOCIETY.

Chicago now presents the greatest opportunity for the work of saving dependent and neglected children that has ever been offered in the history of the world; first, because we may avail ourselves of the combined experi-

ence of multitudes of agencies; second, because the work which has already been done in this city has already been done along right lines and there is very little rubbish to be cleared away. All of the older cities of Christendom have a large array of orphan asylums, founding asylums, children's reformatories and institutions of various classes, many of which are old and entrenched in traditions which can only be overcome with great difficulty. Chicago has few organizations and nearly all of them have been established along right lines.

For fifty years there has been in progress a change of public sentiment with reference to the wisest plan of caring for dependent and neglected children. Formerly the idea prevailed that the best possible place for a homeless and dependent child was in the fostering care of an institution. It was believed that institutions could be so organized and ordered as to make them better and safer places for such children than family homes. In some states, like New York, Pennsylvania and California, public funds have been appropriated to aid in maintaining institutions managed by private corporations. As a result New York has about 30,000 children in private institutions and the public appropriations in aid of such institutions amount to about \$3,000,000 per year. California maintains an average of 4,200 in private institutions by means of state appropriations, which amounts to \$350,000 per year.

The reaction against the institution system began with the work of Mr. Charles Loring Brace in the New York Children's Aid Society. Mr. Brace began sending children from the slums of New York into the west in carload lots nearly fifty years ago. These children were distributed without much investigation and without any special contracts for their protection, yet the records of the New York Children's Aid Society show that the great body of these children have made good citizens notwithstanding their unfavorable beginning. The work of the New York Society has been modified in later years, the children being handled in smaller numbers and with greater care.

The plan of placing children in family homes met with vigorous opposition at first but gradually gained favor. About thirty years ago the State of Massachusetts adopted this plan as a public policy; Massachusetts was followed a little later by Michigan, and still later by Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado and other states.

In Illinois the same policy is carried out by the operation of private organizations. Nearly all the orphan asylums, industrial schools and children's homes in the state follow the plan of placing children in family homes after a comparatively brief stay in the institution. At the Illinois Manual Training School Farm at Glenwood the average stay of the boys in the institution is less than a year and a half.

The work of placing children in family homes is carried on by the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, the latter being a Catholic society.

The Children's Home and Aid Society has received about 4,300 children, most of whom have been placed in family homes. The society has still under its guardianship 2,200 children in family homes.

The plan of placing children in family homes is liable to great abuses. Many people desire to obtain children for the sake of their labor. Others who are moved by a charitable influence are not proper people to have charge of children. The best organizations, therefore, are exercising increasing care in the selection of homes and in the supervision of children after being placed. It is a tremendous expense to undertake to determine the entire future of the child and to arbitrarily fix its environment. This work cannot be done too carefully or too conscientiously. In the early years of this work great emphasis was laid upon its economic aspects. One society stated that they were placing children in family homes at the rate of \$8.63 per head. In recent years it has come to be recognized that cheapness is not the best recommendation for the efficiency of such work.

Social Function of Public Education.

There are many indications of a new social consciousness in the work of public education, not only in the community at large, but especially among those charged with the grave responsibilities of administering the greatest trust which the people have committed to any of their office-holders. The report of the United States Commissioner of Education for the year 1898 and 1899 clearly maintains this long-recognized leadership in this, as in other lines of educational progress. In addition to its invaluable technical contents of special interest to teachers, there is a broad survey of the progress of public education throughout the world

which cannot fail to be appreciated by those who seek the realization of the higher social ideals through the teacher and the school. It is encouraging to note the attention bestowed on such practical developments of the social function of education as "School Gardens," "Educational Training for Railway Service," "The Amelioration of the Colored Race," "Anti-Alcoholic Instruction in the French Schools," "Movement for Prolonging the Education of the People," and Prof. Herbert B. Adams' exceedingly interesting and comprehensive account of "University Extension in Great Britain." Settlement workers will notice with satisfaction the emphasis he lays upon the part that Arnold Toynbee, Toynbee Hall and the social settlements in England and America have had in popularizing university culture. This invaluable report can be secured free upon application to the Commissioner of Education at Washington, D. C.

Ethelbert Stewart, one of the most accomplished statisticians in the National Department of Labor at Washington, contributes Part I of the Eleventh Biennial Report of the Illinois Bureau of Labor Statistics, devoted to an exhaustive investigation of kindergartens, manual training and industrial education in the public schools. In briefest but most comprehensive descriptive and statistical form, invaluable data concerning these most hopeful lines of progress are placed within the reach of all interested.

President Andrew S. Draper of the University of Illinois, in a fearless and fundamental discussion of the common-school problem in Chicago, not only went to the bottom of the situation which has so long been a scandal to the city and state, but also led the way toward the top by his radically reconstructive but most practical suggestions.

The Merchants' Club of Chicago, composed of many of the more influential younger men representing the larger commercial interests of the city, discussed at their last meeting "The Public School as a Social Center." Accompanying an invitation to this occasion, these stirring words of the president of the Club are worth quoting from a personal letter: "To me the question is fundamental for the elevation of the masses. We can hope to do little more than start the entering wedge, because it involves the recognition of the principle that every man is as entitled to recreation as he is to an education, and the state is equally bound to provide means for both."

From the Settlements.

The Northwestern Settlement, Chicago, looks forward to the establishment of a miniature basket factory as an outgrowth of this work in the boys' clubs. Orders will be welcome at any time.

The Lincoln House Monthly, Cambridge, Mass., is a neighborhood paper distributed free to all Lincoln House families. The January number is full of bright reports of club doings. There is marked interest in dramatics and song. In April a fair and entertainment will be held, for which each department is notified to make salable contributions.

In 1899 the Cincinnati Social Settlement moved from a large corner house on Broadway and Third street to its present "haven-like quarters between two flats above and a theater transformed into a tobacco factory below." The settlement reports the registration of 1,100 families from September, 1896, to March, 1900. One feature of their work is the celebration of national days dear to the different foreigners in the district. At the woman's club a German woman gathers her friends around her and reads from a book sent her by a resident and joyfully discovered to be "Heine." Oil paintings belonging to city artists were exhibited for a month, the favorite being a Farny Indian. The Mothers' Association co-operates in the support of the kindergarten to the extent of nine dollars a month. There is also a Crippled Lads' Club, in which several branches of manual art are taught.

The Annual Report of Westminster House, Buffalo, has a good showing of the Penny Provident—1,112 depositors, and \$1,651.84 amount deposited, an increase of 60 and 80 per cent over last year.

Mr. Tchorigian resided three months at the settlement, gathering data on the saloons and social clubs of East Buffalo, for the Committee of Fifty.

Miss Holmes feels that one of the most encouraging things is the friendly interest of the neighbors, and their co-operation and leadership in the work-room, sewing school, chair-caning and dressmaking classes. One woman donated the kitchen and papered the Diet Kitchen herself. This certainly is the right kind of neighborliness.

The Louisville Neighborhood House thus expresses its purposes:

1. To furnish a meeting place in a social and democratic atmosphere for men and women, regardless of their occupation, race or creed.

2. To co-operate with every force existing for good, both in the immediate neighborhood and in the whole civic life.

3. To present knowledge in such simple form and by such direct means that it must take hold of the mind.

4. To stimulate self-help as the only form of charity which, save in exceptional cases, does not undermine both character and citizenship.

A suggestion of one child in the manual training class developed a dry-goods box into "Little Neighborhood House," a finished and furnished home, in the planning and building of which boys and girls assumed equal responsibility. Pictures, books, clay dishes and wash-stand sets were made, the common interest producing a sweet sociability much needed. Of the work as a whole, one mother exclaimed: "It's the best thing started!"

The Third Annual Report of Hartley House, New York City, is as interesting in content as it is attractive in form. The house, it is declared, "stands for a fundamental human principle clearly enunciated by Froebel, that organisms grow by their exercise of inherent creative faculties; and that the direction of the growth, whether for better or worse, depends on the nature and trend of underlying activities, and on the nature and character of outside influences in the environment in which the growth takes place." It "accepts without qualification the kindergarten doctrine that by the judicious exercise of childish tendencies to action, whether in play or in simple work, dispositions, habits and resultant characters can be modified, developed and formed."

The Penny Provident Fund of this Settlement afforded an opportunity to each one of the fourteen members of the senior class in sociology at Barnard College to pay weekly visits to two families, represented in its list of publishers. Through this free and natural method of intercourse, the student visitors were enabled to observe for themselves many social facts, which were discussed in their lecture course.

Upward of 10,800 visits and calls were made at Hartley House during the year, 7,400 of which were made by people of the neighborhood.

New York Settlements have affiliated themselves with the Alliance Employment Bureau, which is organized to secure permanent positions for the unemployed. The investigations of the conditions in one or more trades is assigned to each of the settlements. The points of inquiry are the rate and intervals of the payment of wages and the pay for overtime, the amount, cause and use of fines imposed upon employes, the hours of labor by the day and season, the length of vacation, with or without pay, whether employes work independently or in mutually dependent groups, in compliance with factory laws relating to posting of regulations, full hour for lunch, toilet arrangements, seats for employes, apprenticeship—length of without wages, amount of first wages and rapidity of rise; whether employes belong to a union, if rest or lunch rooms are provided, is occupation dangerous, and if so, is any precaution or protection guaranteed, is occupation crowded, is number of persons employed increasing, what proportion of machine to hand labor and what are latest improvements in the machinery used.

The investigation of the condition of labor and wages among women stenographers, and laundry condition for women in New York was assigned to Hartley House.

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FROM THE INTRODUCTION.

"The author, who is both a clergyman and a Doctor of Philosophy, has been among boys and done work with them that I regard hardly less than epoch making in significance.

G. STANLEY HALL.

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GRAHAM TAYLOR, - - - - Editor.

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EDITORIAL

THE information and opinion on the complex problem of juvenile dependency and delinquency which we present herewith at first hand from those who personally know most of it and officially have most to do with it, will prove to be a timely contribution toward its solution in Chicago. The public mind is awaking to the fact that the small boy is one of the largest municipal problems. Mr. Robert Treat Paine, the eminent Boston authority, long ago attributed the deterioration of city populations to these three main causes—neglected child life, foul houses and misapplied charity. Perhaps the greatest achievement of the associated charities movement in Chicago has been the unification of the child-saving agencies, not only of the city, but of the central and western states, under the Children's Home and Aid Society, which is making national progress under the expert superintendency of Dr. Hastings H. Hart. The enactment and wise administration of the Juvenile Court law, which have been made possible by the sane co-operation of essentially the same forces, mark the greatest step in advance which could possibly have been taken in solving the local situation. In the bad old times before this new era began, the writer heard burly police magistrates and prison officials plead with tears in their tone for some change in the criminal-making procedure with juvenile delinquents which they were forced to execute. The fiercest denunciation of a public policy that ever came to his ears was made by a former warden of the House of Correction in indignant remembrance of the 9,000 boys whom he had been compelled to put through his crime factory in the seven years of his superintendency. On another occasion the declaration of a rough police justice was heard in an early committee

conference over this subject that "any of us justices would give you a hundred dollars out of his own pocket to be told what better he could do with the boys brought before him than to send them to the Bridewell." The last response to this bidding happily comes from the Commercial Club, composed of the wealthiest men of Chicago, in their offer to raise \$100,000 toward the expense of removing the John Worthy School from its contaminating proximity to the city prison to a separate site in the country, and also to contribute \$125,000 to enlarge the capacity of the Illinois Manual Training and Farm School at Glenwood to care for 600 boys instead of less than half that number. The city of Chicago cannot afford not to close with this offer at once. Other places can afford to anticipate similar situations and prevent them from being realized by preoccupying and prepossessing the boy and girl life with good.

NOTHING is more needed to increase the efficiency of the social and public service of this country than the definite offer of practical educational training therefor. Every branch of that service now attempted by churches, philanthropic organizations, municipalities or the states is more or less crippled and ineffective for the lack of subordinates, as well as heads of departments and superintendents, who have had any chance to equip and discipline themselves for their delicate, difficult and far-reaching work. All those for whom these agencies are at work suffer lifelong loss and positive injury at the hand of those whose competency or spirit, either or both, are inadequate to the great social trust of caring for them. The "true bill," which the grand jury of public opinion is finding, indicts with impartiality the untrained Sunday-school or public school teacher, pastor, rabbi or priest, charity agent, friendly visitor, settlement resident, club worker, the Young Men's or Young Women's Christian Association secretary, prison guard, poorhouse-keeper, insane asylum attendant, and every branch of the civil list, from the police patrolman to the consular service. The few, and for the most part feeble, educational efforts to supply this practical and imperious demand, although ridiculously inadequate, are some of them achieving an initial success which justifies stronger, more scientific and better equipped means to this end.

Even if the public and personal demand for thorough training in these directions be not yet clearly in evidence, nevertheless the manifest need for it and the surely increasing prevalence of the merit system in the civil service, warrant the endeavor upon the part of universities or other educational institutions to create the demand by the offer of the supply.

The Public Library and the Public School.

"The librarian should know the school and its work, in a general way, as a very important part of his work, just as the teacher should know the library and its methods as a part of her work. * * * The children should have free access to the library shelves. The community should be led to regard the library as a necessary part of a system of public education, just as essential as the common school. If it is the duty of the state to see that its citizens know how to read, it is certainly none the less its duty to see that they are so trained that the ability to read will be a blessing rather than a curse. A free public library is the adult's common school. Pupils should know what a library is, what it contains and how to use it. A child can no more be wisely left to get his knowledge and taste for literature by himself than to get his mathematical or scientific training in the same way. Children must be trained to use the library as they are trained to do other things. The destiny of a child is not affected by the ability to read, but by the use he makes of that ability. * * * The school trains for a few years; the library for a life time."—Extract from circular issued by the National Educational Association.

There is, perhaps, no library that has done more to establish this cordial relation between itself and the public school than has the public library of New York City, which, in addition to its already well equipped children's reading rooms, has recently opened twenty branch free libraries in schoolrooms in the city's poorest and most congested districts.

Speaking of the above President O'Brien, of the board of education, says the purpose is to put the library where the greatest masses can avail themselves of the opportunities which the reading rooms afford. "We expect," he adds, "to have as great a success with the libraries as we have obtained with the free lec-

tures, and with both working together, we hope to establish in New York City a system of education for the masses that has not been equaled by any other city in the world."

At a meeting of the Principal's Association of Pittsburg, Pa., one year ago, the librarian of the public library was invited to give an address. In the address he made an urgent plea that steps should be taken to have the work of the library with the schools more thoroughly organized and systematized. A committee was at once appointed to co-operate with the librarian and his assistants in the preparation of a carefully selected and graded list of books most suitable for school use, apart from the ordinary text book. To this general committee were added nine sub-committees.

The graded and annotated catalogue which they have recently issued is unique, and can be compared with no other in fullness and completeness. An excellent handbook for teacher or parent—it will be the means of vitalizing the entire work of the school, of awakening among children that enthusiasm for good reading which is the highest guarantee of true culture, good habits and genuine character.

Besides the children's reading rooms, this Pittsburg library has for the past three years successfully used the Home Library system, a scheme which has been thoroughly tested in Boston and elsewhere, usually in connection with charitable organizations and women's clubs. Library Boards have been last to realize what opportunities are here opened, and that there is no more legitimate work for the public library.

Twenty-five dollars purchases a small book case and a number of well selected books for children and a year's subscription to *Youth's Companion*, *Saint Nicholas* or some child's paper. This little library is left in a home, where once each week a librarian from the Central library, or a volunteer visitor gathers a group of the neighborhood children about the case. At this time books are given out, and the case is closed until the next week. When all the books have been read by the group the library is exchanged for another. The group admits of indefinite expansion, according to the calls of the children, or the visitor's ability to draw them out.

Foremost among the cities all over the country that are doing noble work in the line of library extension, must be mentioned Boston,

Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit and Milwaukee; Omaha, St. Louis, Denver and San Francisco in the west; and the splendid movement which has been started in New Orleans.

Not in large cities alone, but in many smaller ones, the work is growing. Michigan City, Ind., limited in space, cut off one corner of its delivery room for this purpose, where now on special days certain grades from the public schools are invited that both teachers and pupils may become familiar with the resources of the library and the means of using them.

Mother to Child.

"Thou are one with the world—tho I love thee the best,

And to save thee from pain, I must save all the rest—
Thou wilt weep; and thy mother must dry
The tears of the world, lest her darling should cry.

I will do it—God helping!

For the sake of my child I must hasten to save
All the children on earth from the jail and the grave
For so and so only, I lighten the share
Of the pain of the world that my daring must bear—
Even so and so only!"

—Greatsoul.

The Month at Chicago Commons

For the information of such of our readers as have inquired about the address of Mr. John P. Gavit, formerly editor of THE COMMONS, we state that his present address is Wilmerding, Pa., but in case of any from whose mind this information escapes, we will always be glad to forward any matter sent through THE COMMONS. We recently had the pleasure of receiving his first visit back home.

The house-warming of the Men's Club rooms in the new building, given by the Neighborhood League, was "a grand opening" of the right sort.

The Roanoke Athletic Club earned the pre-eminence of putting the gymnasium to its first use. Their rousing entertainment enables them to bear their fair share of the expense in fitting up the club-rooms which they have assumed jointly with the Neighborhood League.

The center of attraction for young men and women, as well as the boys and the girls, is very manifestly the gymnasium, which, for the lack of the investment of only \$500 or \$600 in apparatus is as yet put to the partial but enjoyably profitable use of indoor baseball and basket-ball, wand exercises, etc.

The Women's fine suite of rooms has been furnished by the co-operation of the Woman's Club, the Progressive Club for younger women, and the Tabernacle Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society. The first receptions given by each of these organizations created an atmosphere of sociability as ruddy as any fire that may ever glow on their hearth. The club kitchen, well equipped with its gas range, cupboards and colossal coffee urn, has begun to shed its good cheer.

The musical groups have all been transferred to the new building. The children's chorus is rapidly recruiting its numbers; the Choral Club shares with the reorganized orchestra the use of the auditorium platform. The sound-proofing of the floors and walls proves so successful that practically no interference is suffered by the groups meeting directly above them.

The Shakespeare Club afforded the other literary groups a rare treat in the rendering of Macbeth by Prof. S. H. Clark, of the University of Chicago, which will long be remembered by those who heard this masterful interpretation.

The equipment of our cooking school in the new building has been assured by the generous co-operation of the Klio Association, which, from the surplus accumulated by its largely patronized and wisely managed Noonday-Rest Lunch Club, appropriated \$250 to this purpose. This will enable us to put our fine new cooking-school kitchen at the use of the many classes of girls and young women, who, despite the inadequacy of their old quarters, have rallied a membership of 108. We hope also to be able to start on a small scale a Noonday-Rest lunch club of our own, with the co-operation of some of the teachers in our neighboring public schools, who will form the nucleus of the club.

Chicago Commons is in great need of a small fire-proof safe for the Settlement office in the new building. Cannot some of its friends put us in the way of receiving the gift of a second-hand safe?

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